

EDIC Chrono

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1 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, E/C  
Attn: [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
FROM : [REDACTED] 25X1A9a  
SUBJECT : EDIC/EXCON Reference Desk Report, March 1955

Summary - The Economic Defense Intelligence Committee met on 17 March. It approved the dissolution of all but one of its subgroups and the cancellation of three pending cases. The Acting Chairman reported on the status of several pending economic defense problems of particular concern to EDIC. The Executive Secretary continued his work on the COCOM downgrading project; assisted in processing of EDIC material for vital documents storage; indexed all material in files of the EXCON Reference Desk; briefed Defense representatives on EDIC activities; collaborated with MDAC, State and M/P/RR in production of supplemental information for incorporation in a revised State IR on petroleum; listed for SO action the security clearance status of all EDIC members; was assigned as Agency coordinator for the 1955 MDAC Fact Sheet program; and carried on related activities. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a provided continuing reference service on EDAC/EC, C/C/C/, JOC and cable material.

EXCON Reference Activities

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[REDACTED] provided continuing reference service on EDAC/EC, C/C/C/, JOC and cable material. Although activation of the new cable system proposed in last month's report was considered, no agreement

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on its adoption had been reached by the end of March within the Division.

25X1A9a With [REDACTED] services now required by E/C(t) on a full-time basis, it has been decided that maintenance of the cable subject file (her former assignment) should be discontinued. Effective the first of April, therefore, E/C(x) cables (State, USRO and FOA) will be maintained chronologically by category, e.g., POLTO's, TOPOL's, etc. Also, in connection with

25X1A9a [REDACTED] new assignment, the EXCON Reference Desk has returned to E/C(c) responsibility for JOC and related materials. As a result of this shift in personnel assignments, the memorandum from this office of 13 December 1954 to Chief, D/E on "Allocation of Personnel Responsibilities" is rescinded. It is assumed, further, that the memorandum of 29 September, 1954 from Acting Chief, D/E to Chief, E/C on "Assignment of Personnel" is no longer effective.

25X1A9a [REDACTED] continued her accumulation and indexing of C/C/C documents and the Executive Secretary completed the review of about 1,500 documents of the more than 3,000 involved in the downgrading project. A chronology of developments on this project, covering the period 2 November 1954 to date, was prepared for record. On 9 March recommendations covering eight of the thirteen categories of documents were forwarded over signature of the CIA Classification Officer to the Chairman of the Executive Committee. This memorandum was subsequently distributed as EDIC/AM-8 for information of EDIC members (see further in EDIC Activities, below). Conversations on this subject have been held with State, MDAC, Defense, and CIA (EX/RR and the CIA Classification Officer), and further talks are scheduled with PP/FI to clarify CIA's position on the downgrading of C/C/C documents.

In his Division assignment, the Executive Secretary prepared at request of the Deputy Division Chief a draft statement of CIA activities in economic defense. 25X1A9a [REDACTED] prepared and indexed selected INE (EDIC) Papers for storage as vital documents, and an index of material in the EXCON Reference Desk files was prepared and distributed for information of officers of this Division.

During the month the Executive Secretary was designated to coordinate CIA's participation in the 1955 MDAC Fact Sheet program. He attended two meetings of an ad hoc group under FOA chairmanship and drafted, in collaboration with Deputy Chief, and Chief, D/E, a request for E Area support in the preparation, revision and review of 1955 Fact Sheets. Subsequently he has served as CIA liaison with five other MDAC agencies engaged in the preparation of approximately forty Fact Sheets, eleven of which were received during the month for Agency review, and four of which are the primary responsibility of CIA (S/TF).

The Executive Secretary, in addition to arranging the 17 March meeting, briefed two Defense representatives on the activities of EDIC within the economic defense structure. As a member of EDIC, he arranged also for M/P/RR preparation of a memorandum on "Soviet Bloc Potential to Export Petroleum in 1955". This information, together with earlier G-2 and AFOIN comments on State Department IR 6714 - "Soviet Bloc Trade Trends and Tactics in Petroleum" - were transmitted to OIR/State for incorporation in a revision of that report. This IR is to be used both

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in the Fact Sheet program and to satisfy an MDAC request upon EDIC for a paper which can be submitted to COCOM in connection with the CG resolution on Soviet trade trends and tactics.

Economic Defense Intelligence Committee

At the one EDIC meeting held during March, members heard a report by the Acting Chairman on several current economic defense problems of particular interest to EDIC (see Item C, Tab VI). With the exception of the Subgroup on Intelligence on Trade in Decontrolled Commodities, all IWG and EDIC subgroups were dissolved. In connection with dissolution of the East-West Trade Collection Requirements Subgroup, CIA was asked to prepare an interim report for the DCN and EDIC on whether satisfactory progress is being made in the development of covert collection requirements. The following pending IWG (EDIC) cases were cancelled:

No. 7 - Collection Requirements on East-West Trade

No. 36 - Intelligence Data for US Delegate to CHINCOM


No. 62 - [REDACTED]

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During the discussion on dissolution of the Far Eastern Economic Defense subgroup, the Executive Secretary called the attention of members to the fact that although an IWG case had been set up for the specific purpose of providing intelligence support to FEEDWG (EDAC) and the USDEL to CHINCOM, practically no support to those groups had been channelled through EDIC. In this context the Acting Chairman noted the possible need for a revision of EDIC terms of reference to reflect a changed situation.

The Acting Chairman, in his report on the status of the COCOM downgrading project, expressed serious concern over failure of other agencies to participate in this document review, indicating that the Government would be faced with a fait accompli of en masse downgrading if CIA had not undertaken the task of reviewing the more than 3000 documents.

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Attachment

TAB VI - EDIC Activities, March 1955

D/E/RR:JAG:gg

Distribution

Orig - Ch/E/C

1 -  25X1A9a

1 - EDIC Chrono File